

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CODE:	PL-06
COMMITTEE:	Policy and Legislative
DATE:	June 10, 2015

SUBJECT/TITLE

Smart Start Day School Requests State Board of Education (SBE) Approval of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10 (2012)

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

The purpose of this request is to recognize the kindergarten program of Smart Start Day School as an “other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child is five years of age before September first until the child attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school” for the purposes of compulsory attendance under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10.

CRITICAL FACTS

Smart Start Day School is a private facility with three- and four-year-old preschool programs and five-year-old kindergarten programs.

The site is located at 2700 Ashland Road, Columbia, SC 29210. It is an 11,400 square foot facility with 14 classrooms, a community center, kitchen, and administrative offices.

There are approximately five teachers, three of whom are working on obtaining SC teaching certifications. The teacher-student ratio will be approximately 1:12.

The school day is 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. with before- and after-school care.

SC Code Ann. § 59-65-10 requires attendance at “a public or private school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board of Education, a member school of the South Carolina Independent Schools' Association, a member school of the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church-related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year.” Most private schools with 5K programs belong to an association or are denominational. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has found no policies or procedures for requests by schools for approval from the SBE under this statute.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

February 10, 2015	Smart Start Day School sent an e-mail to the SCDE requesting approval for compulsory kindergarten attendance.
April 8, 2015	Smart Start Day School completed and returned to the SCDE a questionnaire on various items relating to the functions, policies, curriculum, and management of the school.
April to May 2015	Additional documents requested by the SCDE.
August 19, 2015	First day of school for kindergarteners at Smart Start Day School.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST:	N/A
FUND/SOURCE:	N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments:

Smart Start Day School e-mail, family handbook, calendar, images

RECOMMENDATION

Because the SCDE found no policies or procedures on these requests for approval, the SCDE defers to the SBE as to whether to approve or disapprove the Smart Start Day School's request to become a recognized program for the purposes of compulsory kindergarten attendance under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10 or whether the SBE needs additional information to make a decision on this request.

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL: ☒

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ☐